

**REMARKS**

**Election of Species Requirement**

The Election of Species Requirement that was mailed on May 23, 2003, has been received and reviewed.

Two new species of invention have been identified:

Species I: Generic Invention characterized in that the polymeric is removed [e.g. described at lines 1-7 of [0015]; and

Species II: Generic Invention characterized in that the polymeric is reduced in thickness such that the polymeric is partly restrained instead of being completely removed [e.g. described at lines 7-13 of [0015].

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species II. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6-9, 13-21, 22, 24, 25, 28-32, 33-35, and 36-40 reads on the invention of Species II. Of these, independent claims 1, 22, 33, and 36 are generic to Species II.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is also generic to Species I, upon which claims 2-4, 6-12, and 17-21 also read.

**Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement**

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the above-referenced application on December 14, 2000, but that an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied that Information Disclosure Statement has not yet been returned to the undersigned attorney. It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the Information Disclosure Statement and listed on the Form PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing such consideration be returned to the undersigned attorney.

It is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-4, 6-9, 13-21, 22, 24, 25, 28-32, 33-35, and 36-40 be considered on the merits at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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